

VZCZCXRO5521
RR RUEHPA
DE RUEHAB #1050/01 2611635
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 181635Z SEP 06 ZDK ALL DUE NUM SVCS
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1934
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 ABIDJAN 001050

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/18/2016
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KPKO](#) [ASEC](#) [IV](#)
SUBJECT: COTE D'IVOIRE: PRIME MINISTER FORMS A NEW
GOVERNMENT WITH FEW CHANGES

REF: ABIDJAN 997

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Classified By: Poloff Phaedra Gwyn for reasons 1.4 b&d

1. (U) SUMMARY: Prime Minister Banny has formed a new cabinet, replacing the former Ministers of Transport and Environment, dividing the Ministries of Justice and Interior in two ministries each, and naming two new Secretaries of State, a rank slightly below that of minister. Thus, the new cabinet has four more members than the previous one, but the political balance remains roughly the same. It remains to be seen whether this will strengthen Banny's control over his cabinet, which one of his close advisors told the Ambassador was the real purpose of this reshuffle. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) In a televised address on September 16, President Gbagbo's spokesman Desire Tgro announced the formation of a new cabinet, a few days after Prime Minister Banny tendered his resignation over the toxic waste scandal. Tagro read two decrees, one reappointing Banny's Prime Minister, and the other naming the rest of the cabinet.

3. (C) Two ministers were removed from the cabinet in the wake of the toxic waste scandal: Minister of Transport Anaky Kobenan, who is the head of the opposition MFA (Movement of Forces of the Future) party, and Minister of the Environment Jacques Andoh, who is a former member of parliament from the PIT (International Party of Workers) party, which is loosely aligned with President Gbagbo's FPI (Ivoirian Popular Front). The new Minister of Transport is Abdel Aziz Thiam, Director General of SITARAIL, the government rail company, who is not politically active but believed to be sympathetic to the opposition PDCI (Democratic Party of Cote d'Ivoire) because he is a grandchild of long-time President Houphouet-Boigny, founder of the PDCI. The new Minister of Environment is Daniel Ayissi Aka, an economist, university professor, and a national secretary for the PIT.

4. (C) The Ministry of Interior and Territorial Administration was split into two. Former Interior Minister Joseph Dja Ble, politically neutral, remains on as the new Minister of Security, and Daniel Bamba Cheik, a career civil servant but believed to be sympathetic to the FPI, was newly appointed as Minister of Territorial Administration. The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights was also split in two. Mamadou Kone, politically independent but leaning toward the opposition RDR (Rally of republicans) remains Minister of Justice, while MA Vice President Joel N'Guessan was newly appointed as Minister for Human Rights. The decree also named two new Secretaries of State, a rank slightly lower than Minister. Ginette Ursule Yoman, a career civil servant but a protégé of PDCI leader former President Bedie and formerly a close advisor to Prime Minister Banny, was named Secretary of State for Good Governance, and Noel Yao, also

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believed to lean towards PDCI, was named Secretary of State for Civil Protection.

5. (C) All other ministers stayed the same. The complete list is as follows:

Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, and Minister of Communications
CHARLES KONAN BANNY

FPI:

Minister of National Reconciliation and Relations with the Institutions
SEBASTIEN DANO DJEDJE

Minister of National Education
MICHEL AMANI N'GUESSAN

Minister of Mines and Energy
LEON EMMANUEL MONNET

Minister of State, Minister of Planning and Development
ANTOINE BOHOUN BOUABRE

Minister of Civil Service, Labor, and Administrative Reform
HUBERT OULAYE

Minister of the Fight Against HIV/AIDS
CHRISTINE ADJOBI, FPI

Minister of Animal Production and Fisheries
ALPHONSE DOUATI

PDCI:

Minister of Foreign Affairs
YOUSOUF BAKAYOKO

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Minister of Economic Infrastructure
PATRICK ACHI

Minister of Health and Public Hygiene
REMI ALLAH KOUADIAO

Minister of Industry and Private Sector Promotion
MARIE TEHOUA AMAH

Minister of Youth Civic Education and Sports
DAGOBERT BANZIO

RDR:

Minister of Agriculture
AMADOU GON COULIBALY

Minister of Construction Town Planning and Housing
MARCEL BENOIT AMON TANOI

Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research
IBRAHIMA CISSE BACONGO

Minister of Family and Social Affairs
JEANNE PEUHMONT

Minister of New Information Technologies and Communication
HAMED BAKAYOKO

NEW FORCES:

Minister of State, Minister in Charge of Reconstruction and
Reintegration Program
GUILLAUME SORO

Minister of Solidarity and War Victims
LOUIS DACOURY-TABLEY

Minister of Tourism and Handicrafts
AMADOU KONE

Minister of Commerce
MOUSSA DOSSO

Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training
YOUSOUF SOUMAHORO

UDPCI:

Minister of Cooperation and African Integration
MABRI TOIKEUSE

PIT:

Minister of Environment Waters and Forest Resources
DANIEL AYISSI AKA (new minister)

UDCY:

Minister of Culture and Francophone Affairs
THEODORE MEL EG

MFA:

Minister of Human Rights (new ministry)
JOEL N, GUESSAN

Civil Society:

Minister of Justice
MAMADOU KONE, leans toward RDR

Minister of Territorial Administration (new ministry)
DANIEL CHEIK BAMBA, career civil servant, probably leans
toward FPI

Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance
CHARLES DIBY KOFFI career civil servant, politically neutral

Deputy Minister of Communication
MARTINE KOFFI STUDER, probably leans toward PDCI

Secretary of State for Good Governance

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GINETTE YOMAN, career civil servant, probably leans toward
PDCI

Secretary of State for Civil Protection

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NOEL YAO, career civil servant, probably leans toward PDCI

Minister of Defense
RENE APHING KOUASSI, probably leans toward PDCI

Minister of Security
JOSEPH DJA BLE (politically neutral)

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Minister of Transport
ABDEL AZIZ THIAM (probably leans toward PDCI)

15. (C) COMMENT: As predicted, Banny has formed a new government with relatively few changes and roughly the same political balance. What remains to be seen is whether this will strengthen Banny's control over his cabinet, which one of his close advisors told the Ambassador was the real purpose of this reshuffle (reftel). END COMMENT.
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